



Perceptions Saginaw Valley

Serving the Tri-City Area LGBT
Community

November 2010

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free

Perceptions Annual

Thanksgiving

Potluck & Food Drive

November 18, 2010



Inside:

Thanksgiving Potluck & Food Drive	2
Meet Daphne Barkley	3
Holiday Party	3
Year End Donations	4
Transgender Day of Remembrance	4
Rana Elmir	7
Obama's Message to LGBT Youth	7
Halloween Party Photos	8
SIV Older Than Thought	9
Transgenders & the DSM-5	9
Nominations for the Board	10
Election Day	10

Also Inside:

Current Events	5
Calendar	6
Classifieds	10

**Daphne
Barkley
Joins the
Perceptions
Board**

See Page 3

See Page 2 For Details

Perceptions
Saginaw Valley
P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
989-891-1429
www.PerceptionsSV.org

EDITOR
Brent Theisen
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

AD SALES
Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

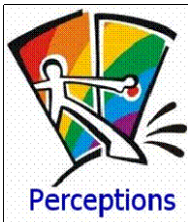
Print Distribution
Jim Kleinsorge
Jim@PerceptionsSV.org

Webmaster
Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

SUBMISSIONS are always
welcome. Write to:
Editor@PerceptionsSV.org

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Mid-Michigan's leading
resource for
enriching and
empowering LGBT
individuals
and their
community

Perceptions is a 501 (c) (3) charitable
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which exceed the minimum amount to qualify for
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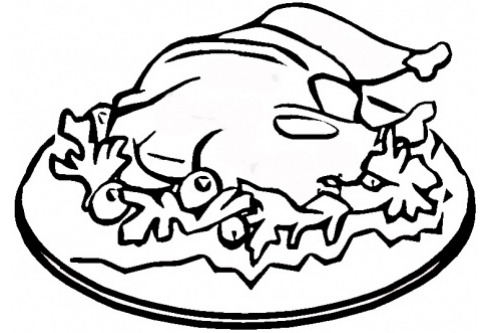
Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide superior
educational programs, networking
opportunities and services for the well
being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and
Transgender individuals and their
community.

“Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action.” ~W.J. Cameron Perceptions Annual Thanksgiving Potluck & Food Drive

Alan Shinaver

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of
life. It turns what we have into
enough, and more. It turns denial
into acceptance, chaos to order,
confusion to clarity. It can turn a
meal into a feast, a house into a
home, a stranger into a
friend. Gratitude makes sense of our
past, brings peace for today and
creates a vision for
tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie*



Perceptions will celebrate its
annual potluck at the November
General Membership meeting,
Thursday, November 18 at 7:00
p.m. held at St Johns Episcopal
Church. Each year we gather
together with friends and family
to share in an evening of
gratitude for all that has come to
be over the past year: new
friends, new accomplishments,
new visions and new directions.

This year we will be conducting
a canned food and personal
hygiene item drive to benefit the
pantry of BASIS. A dish to share
for the pot luck would also help
make the evening, but is not
necessary; all are welcome to
enjoy in the bounty of giving
and gratitude. Mark your calen-
dars now, and we'll see you
then.



Meet New Board Member Daphne Barkley

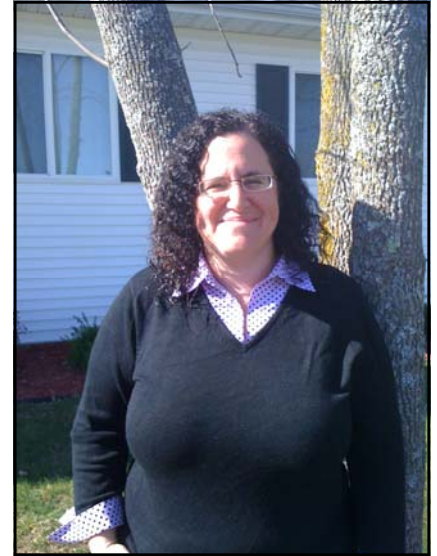
[Daphne Barkley](#)

I am very excited to join the board of Perceptions. I currently reside in Midland with my Miniature Pinscher, Tazper, who is a rather spoiled little guy (he practically has a bed in every room). Accountant by profession, I am currently employed by Alma products as a Business Analyst. I am also pursuing a Masters in Business Administration through Central Michigan University with a double concentration in International Management and Information Resource Management.

I enjoy exploring the world

in many different ways, from traveling, not only to various destinations, but exploring things in my own backyard that are off the beaten path. That little hole in the wall coffee shop, the local community theater, or just walking around town trying to take pictures from unique perspectives (I dabble in photography as a hobby) are all places you may find me. In the summer, I enjoy camping a lot (though I've never been tent camping). I also bowl on the Rainbow Pride league in Flint.

Independent films, foreign cinema, musicals, going to the theater, and music of all sorts are my passion. I try to keep an open mind when it comes to these things as I have found you may stumble across something you



never thought you'd like if you only give it a chance.

I am looking forward to drawing upon these passions as future ideas that can benefit Perceptions and draw more interest to the group as well. I also look forward to becoming more of a voice in and for the community.

Holiday Party Extravaganza

Rick Farrand

Saturday, December 4th, 2010 is going to be a date to remember!! It is the date of Perceptions 9th annual Holiday Party!

This year's Holiday Party is going to be at beautiful Bay Valley Resort, 2470 Old Bridge Rd., Bay City, MI, right off I-75, located conveniently in the Tri-City area! Special room rates are available to Perceptions guests. Enjoy the sumptuous 3 entrée smorgasbord, filled with wondrous mouth-watering choices, and a decadent dessert bar! Free pop and coffee, and of course, cash bar! For your listening and dancing

pleasure, we will have [Modus Rock](#) entertain us, and help move us around the dance floor to help burn off those extra calories taken in by enjoying the fabulous buffet!

There are going to be wonderful and special auction items, donated by great and generous donors, to look at and admire, as you get ready to dig deep and bid on that "can't live without" find! We already have a donation of a week long condo stay in Key West, Florida, during [Fantasy Fest](#) 2011. There are too many other fabulous things to mention! You can even do some of your Christmas

shopping early with us, and find that perfect present, for that hard to shop for person on your list. So give us a try, you'll be amazed at what we have to offer! This is really going to be a night to remember, and you don't want to miss out!!

Tickets are \$30.00 in advance, \$20.00 for students with current ID and \$35.00 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from any current board member, or you can go to our [web site](#) and purchase them through Pay Pal or with a major credit card! Thank-you and have a safe and joyous holiday!!

Year-End Giving

[Tim Atkinson](#)

Many people do the majority of their charitable giving in November and December. Some do this for tax planning purposes and perhaps some are just moved by the holiday spirit. We'd like to make a couple of suggestions for potential donors to consider.

One worthy recipient of your generosity is the Perceptions Scholarship Fund. We have raised enough money for our scholarship fund to meet the minimum amount for endowment. That means that we will be able to award one \$500 scholarship every year forever. As our endowment fund continues to grow, we will be able to award larger scholarships and perhaps award multiple students each year.

Our scholarship fund is administered by the [Saginaw Community Foundation](#). There are additional tax incentives to give to the Scholarship Fund because of the Community Foundation Tax Credit. A \$200 donation may cost an individual donor as little as \$46 out of pocket because of the 50% State of Michigan tax credit and the federal charitable deduction. You may make your donation to Perceptions to forward to SCF or you may give directly to SCF. If you give directly to SCF, make sure to designate that your contribution is for the [Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship](#).

Gifts to the Scholarship Fund may be designated to the endowment account or the spendable account. The endowment account earns interest income; a portion of that income

is then transferred to the spendable account. The spendable account is the money that is paid out as scholarships each year. If you don't specify, your gift will go to the endowment account by default. Only gifts to the endowment account qualify for the [Community Foundation Tax Credit](#). All gifts qualify for the charitable deduction. Due to generous gifts to the spendable account in 2009, we were able to award two scholarships this spring. For more information about the Scholarship Fund, contact Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

The Perceptions Board of Trustees recently established a Facilities Fund. The Facilities Fund is designated toward helping our organization establish a permanent home. We hope to secure a multi-purpose space that will accommodate our general meetings, support groups, and other activities as well as provide office space and storage space. We have formed a Facilities Committee that is working on a plan to make this a reality. They are actively seeking grants but we also need money set aside for this purpose to cover expenses that the grant would not. We respectfully request that you consider contributing to the Facilities Fund to help our organization meet this goal. Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations, including those designated to the Facilities Fund, may qualify for the charitable deduction on your income tax. For more information about the Facilities Committee, contact Leo@PerceptionsSV.org



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Saturday, November 20, 2010 marks the 12th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. The day was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The Day of Remembrance is held in November to honor Rita Hester (pictured), whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. At least two events are planned in Michigan to mark the day.

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ann Arbor will be holding a Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Friday, November 19 from 6-9 p.m. at University of Michigan Palmer Commons, Great Lakes Room, 100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI. For more info: www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Ferndale, Michigan

The Detroit/Ferndale area will be holding a candlelight vigil in recognition of the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Friday, November 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. The location is 2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale MI.

For more information on Transgender day of Remembrance, please visit www.transgenderdor.org

CURRENT EVENTS PAGE

November 2nd, Tuesday - Election Day

▼ November 3rd, Wednesday - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7:00 -

9:00 pm. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' LGBT community. Join us at the **Magic Bean Café**, [5789 State St.](#) in Saginaw. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy hot and cold drinks, baked goods and gelato.

▼ November 5th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **G's Pizzeria & Deli**, [1005 Saginaw St.](#), Bay City. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

▼ November 10th, Wednesday - Freeland Meet & Greet 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Join us at **Riverside Restaurant**, [8295 Midland Road](#) (M-47), Freeland. Private room. Famous homemade pies.

November 10th, Wednesday - Open Hearts 6:30 pm. Positive thinking group for members of the LGBT community who are disabled or anyone having issues they are dealing with. Come for discussion, speakers and support! This month, the group meets at Kathy VanBuskirk's home and is facilitated by Kathy and Carm Audas. For info call 989-755-2618

▼ November 12th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Pat & Jerry's Family Restaurant**, [963 W. Midland Rd.](#), Auburn. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

November 13th, Saturday - Womyn's Room Thanksgiving Potluck 5:00 pm The event will be held at the home of Kathy VanBuskirk. Call 989-755-2618 for information.

November 14th, Sunday. - Genessee Co. PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm.

The meeting takes place at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint**, [2474 S. Ballenger Hwy.](#) For more info contact pflagflint@yahoo.com.

▼ November 16th, Tuesday - Men's Discussion Group 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Zauel Library, [3100 N. Center Road](#), Saginaw Township. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. You may contact him at Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided. You may bring your own beverage into the library as long as the container has a cover or cap.

November 17th, Wednesday - Womyn's Room II 6:00 pm. Designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. Meeting at **Butman-Fish Library**, [1716 Hancock St.](#), Saginaw. For more info contact Rev. Kathy 989-755-2618 or Rev_KathyV@yahoo.com.

November 17th, Wednesday - Men's Friendship Room 7:00 pm. Designed as a safe place for Gay, Bisexual and Transgender men, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization, Men's Friendship Room meets at David Younk's home in Saginaw. For more info. contact David at 989-771-9721 or DavidY513@hotmail.com.

▼ November 18th, Thursday - Perceptions General Membership Meeting 7:00 pm. **St. John's Episcopal Church**, [123 N. Michigan Ave.](#) All are welcome. This month's meeting will be a Thanksgiving Potluck & Food Drive. (See page 2.) So bring a dish to pass and some non-perishable food or hygiene items and prepare for a good time.

Thursday, November 18th - Gay American Smoke Out

The Gay American Smoke Out is an opportunity for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals to challenge themselves to quit smoking. The Gay American Smoke Out was first introduced in 1994 by the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Typically held on the 3rd Thursday in November, The "[Gay American Smoke Out](#)" was created to coincide with the American Cancer Society's "Great American Smokeout."

▼ November 19th - Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **The Savoy Grill**, [127 S. Franklin St.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

Saturday, November 20th - Transgender Day of Remembrance This day was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. At least two events are scheduled for November 19th in Michigan. See Page 4.

▼ November 26th, Friday Night Dinner 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends at **Levi's Food & Spirits**, [5800 Brockway Rd.](#), Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please respond to Jim@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Friday.

November 28th, Sunday - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at its new location, **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**, at [2525 Hemmeter Road](#), Saginaw.

Saturday, December 4th - Perceptions 9th Annual Holiday Party

7:00 pm - Midnight At Bay Valley Resort & Conference Center. See article on Page 3.

Be informed about upcoming events

Simply send a blank email to:

PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

▼ Denotes a Perceptions sponsored event

NOVEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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7 Daylight Saving Time Ends	8	9	10  Freeland Meet & Greet Riverside Restaurant 8295 Midland Road 6:00 - 8:00 PM	11 Veterans Day	12  Friday Night Dinner Pat & Jerry's 963 W. Midland Rd. Auburn 7:00 PM	13																																																																																											
14  Genesee Co. PFLAG Meeting UU Church of Flint 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint 2:00 - 4:30 PM	15	16  Perceptions Men's Discussion Group Zauel Library, Saginaw 7:00 - 8:30 PM	17	18  General Membership Meeting / Potluck St. John's Episcopal Saginaw 7:00 - 9:00 PM	19  Friday Night Dinner Savoy Bar & Grill 127 S. Franklin Saginaw 7:00 PM	20  Transgender Day Of Remembrance																																																																																											
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ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project – They're working for US!

[Jim Kleinsorge](#)

At October's Members and Friends meeting, ACLU of Michigan's Rana Elmir talked to our group about how we can talk about LGBT issues to what she calls 'the movable middle,' those who are swayed, but not yet on our side. Rana was a member of the ACLU for several years before she joined their staff 4 years ago. She certainly has a passion for her job and the organization she represents. She feels the ACLU is *the* most important organization in the country. They are the defenders of equality, the protectors of liberty, and the watchdog of freedom. Though sometimes thought of as controversial, the ACLU has been in existence nationally for 90 years and the ACLU of Michigan just celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

The ACLU of Michigan currently has a project specifically to protect the rights of those in the LGBT community. Not only are they the only group in Michigan that has a lawyer specifically for working on our issues, they are 1 of only 2 groups in Michigan that have a full-time lobbyist in Lansing to fight for LGBT rights. In 2001, they started the LGBT project to work toward LGBT equality.



Ms. Elmir detailed several of the cases and issues that the ACLU and ACLU of Michigan have been involved in during its history as well as giving an insight into some of the strategies they are using (and that we can use) to fight inequality and injustice. The takeaway point is that along with letting our family and friends know we're LGBT, it's also important they know our stories...both our struggles and our successes.

For more information, to join ACLU of Michigan's fight for justice for all, or to get on their mailing list to keep updated on their activities, go to www.aclumich.org

Obama Tells LGBT Kids "It Gets Better"

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are among the latest to record videos for the "It Gets Better Project." "It Gets Better" was launched on YouTube, as a way of stemming the recent trend of suicides that have rocked the LGBT community. It has since launched a website all its own and features over 900 messages from people of all walks of life, as well as big name celebrities such as Ke\$ha, Kathy Griffin, Adam Lambert and cast members from "Modern Family" and "Glee." The address is www.itgetsbetterproject.com.

Meanwhile, in a show of support against anti-gay bullying, people were asked to wear purple on Wednesday, October 20th, in honor of Spirit Day. Purple represents spirit on the rainbow flag. The movement started out on Facebook and was soon endorsed by GLAAD. If you turned on daytime television that day, you might have seen Ellen Degeneres and all four hosts of *The View* wearing the color. Ellen had previously addressed the subject on her talk show.

Sadly, the news of yet another suicide, which is believed to be gay related, was broken that same day. Clearly, there is no easy fix to this problem, but every little bit helps.



*A SPOOKY GOOD TIME
HAD BY ALL*

Several Perceptions Members Attended a
Halloween Party on October 23rd.



SIV May Have Been Around Much Longer Than Originally Thought

Christi Raines

Some viruses are believed to be evolutionarily young, such as Lentiviruses, which are slow viruses characterized by a long incubation period. Included in this genera of viruses are FIV, SIV and HIV. Recently, there was an article published in *Science* (Sept. 2010) that strongly suggests that SIV (Simian immunodeficiency virus) was not first found in chimpanzees between the years 1266 AD and 1685 AD as previously thought, but is actually between 32,821-132,780 (best estimate 76,794) years old.

I am sure that many of you are wondering why you should care about the age of a Lentivirus. Virus strains SIVsmm and SIVcpz are believed to have crossed from chimpanzees to humans, resulting in HIV. More than likely, the original transmission from apes was from exposure to their blood during traditional hunts in Africa.

Interestingly, SIV infections in natural hosts (chimps) are usually nonpathogenic, causing no disease symptoms, even in the presence of high levels of the live circulating virus. Non-natural hosts that are monkeys

and apes contract SIV, which eventually turns into a disease called SAIDS. This is quite similar to HIV turning to AIDS in humans.

The scientists located an isolated population of monkeys on an island called Bioko Island, in Equatorial Guinea. This island was separated from the mainland approximately 10,000 years ago due to rising sea levels. Using a modern molecular technique called sequencing, researchers were able to read the DNA of these monkeys and establish a more accurate age of the virus.

Molecular evolution is a complicated science, and researchers using these techniques believe that "SIV is likely a consequence of long-term host-virus coevolution", according to the article. They also go on to point out that it is not useful to anticipate the evolutionary truce that African non-human primates have with their SIVs at any point in the future of humans and HIV. Even so, the paleovirology is quite fascinating. Please send me an email at christi.raines@gmail.com if you'd like a copy of the article or more information.

Prejudice Influenced by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders

Since 1952, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, commonly called the DSM, has been a key tool for psychiatry in the diagnosing of mental illnesses. The manual has been revised three times since then, with another revision underway.

The first revision, the DSM-II resulted in the addition of homosexuality as a mental disorder. As most of us know, this created much controversy and it was removed in 1973. But the DSM-5, the revision that is expected in 2013, still contains the classification: Gender Identity Disorder (GID). What this means is that if you consider yourself transgender, the DSM classifies you as mentally ill.

The transgender community and its allies want to remove GID from the DSM but have been unsuccessful. As the LGBT community works for the passage of legislation to protect themselves from discrimination, the DSM feeds the perception of transgender people as having an illness.

If you wish to track the development of the DSM-5 and see what it says about GID, use the following link: www.dsm5.org



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Search for Nominations to the Board Begins

[Rick Farrand](#)

Do you have what it takes? Do you have some great ideas? Are you creative? Innovative? Not afraid of challenges? If you answered yes to any of these questions, than maybe you could be the one we are looking for! It is that time of year again, and we need volunteers who are willing to shake things up and make a difference! We need people to help fill voids and vacancies on our Perceptions Board of Trustees. If you are willing to give us a try, see me for details! Your name could be placed on the ballot for our January General Membership meeting, (when elections are held), and you could be our next star!!! Think about it and let me know. Thank you, Rick F.

Rick Farrand can be contacted at
Rick@PerceptionsSV.org

CLASSIFIEDS

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Election Day is November 2nd

This is the first election year since the 1990s that you won't find any measures to ban gay-marriage on any state ballots. However, many of the candidates have campaigned on

their support of, or opposition to, equality for LGBT citizens. There are also LGBT candidates across the country for state and local government. Who we elect as judges is important, as

well. We need the courts to continue the trend of supporting equality. Voting has never been more important for the LGBT community, than it is now. Please don't sit this one out.